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Iran's Terrorist 'Diplomats'

As we've reported, the most remorseless perpetrator of terrorist actions aimed at Americans is not Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi but the messianic mullah of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Khomeini is our public enemy No. 1, and his subordinates around the world are furthering his undeclared war on "the great Satan," as he calls the United States. As often as not, his fanatical followers are cloaked in diplomatic immunity, for Khomeini has made an official government enterprise out of the fundamentalist Islamic revolution he is trying to export throughout the Moslem world.

The extent of Iranian exploitation of diplomatic protection has been disclosed to us by confidential sources in the intelligence community. They have provided explicit details, including the locations of the most important terrorist nests. They can be found in the Iranian missions in Rome, Vienna, Bern, Bonn, Beirut, Damascus—and the Vatican.

In fact, the Iranian ambassador to the Holy See, Ayatollah Khosrow-Shahi, is believed to direct a network of terrorist operations in Spain, Italy, West Germany, Britain and France. The notches on his gun include a former Iranian general and the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to France—both assassinated.

Italian police have a fat dossier on Khosrow-Shahi, including photographs of him making payments to various individuals for "exportation" of the Iranian-sponsored Islamic revolution (meaning terrorism).

For fanatical young Shiites who might undertake

suicide missions against Americans and other targets, Khosrow-Shahi's main recruiting office is at 361-63 Via Nomentana, Rome. This is right next door to the Libyan Embassy at 365 Via Nomentana.

Though a high wall shields the Iranian complex from passers-by on the street, only a low one separates it from the Libyan Embassy grounds. Our sources say there's even a tunnel between the two compounds to facilitate access.

Khosrow-Shahi was once Khomeini's chauffeur and bodyguard, and was believed to be second in command of the students who seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and held Americans hostage for 444 days.

Other Iranian "diplomats" with terrorist credentials include:

- Ali Shams Ardakani, ambassador to Austria. Our intelligence sources say he was involved in the series of bombings directed at American and French facilities in Kuwait on Dec. 12, 1983. Miraculously, no Americans died in the destruction of the U.S. Embassy there, but five Kuwaitis and an Egyptian were killed.

- Ali Nawai, an attache in Bern, Switzerland. He secretly bought about 300 tons of explosives from a Brussels weapons broker in June 1982. The broker had obtained them from sources in West Germany. This material was believed to have been used in the Kuwait bombings and in the destruction of the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, which killed 258 Americans. Nawai sent the explosives by ship to Iran in 20-ton and 30-ton lots. The manifests were doctored to make the explosives look like legal shipments to the Indian army.